

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The adoption of the Delta Protection Act (Act) in 1992 demonstrates recognition by the Legislature that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a living environment of unique significance. The creation of the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), designation of the Primary and Secondary Zones of the Delta, and the completion of a Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta (Regional Plan), pursuant to the Act, have provided the framework for preserving, protecting “and enhancing” the Delta’s irreplaceable agricultural, habitat and recreational resources.

The components of the Commission’s Regional Plan, which includes environment, utilities and infrastructure, land use, agriculture, water, recreation and access, levees, and boating demonstrate recognition of the diverse resources and influences that provide both opportunities and challenges for adaptively managing the Delta. Catastrophic occurrences such as Katrina and natural factors such as global warming have significantly heightened awareness of the fragile nature of these resources and the importance of the Commission’s role.

Having gone through a significant transition in 2005 (summarized in the 2005 Annual Report), in 2006 the Commission implemented measures to solidify its transitional role and direction as summarized below.

Adoption of 2006-2011 Strategic Plan

In an effort to efficiently and effectively fulfill the role afforded to the Commission under the Act, and to successfully meet the expectations of the Administration and the Legislature, the Commission embarked upon a strategic visioning process in November of 2005 that concluded with the adoption of a 2006-2011 Strategic Plan in July of 2006; in essence, a reclaiming of the Commission.

Legislation

The signing of AB 797 (Wolk) into law by the Governor, in 2006, has provided affirmation of the importance of the Commission’s role. Pursuant to this Legislation, the Commission’s membership has been strengthened with the addition of four members, an increase in its appeal authority, and increased tools for facilitation of long-term agricultural land conservation in the Delta.

The signing of SB 1556 (Torlakson) provides the opportunity for the Commission to facilitate the feasibility and planning process for the creation of a Delta trail network as a link to the Bay Trail to promote transportation alternatives as well as to promote ag and eco-tourism.

Appeal Authority

The Commission’s role as an appeal authority became more prevalent in 2006 with the filing of two appeals relative to a local land use decision involving lands in the Primary Zone of the Delta. The Commission fulfilled its responsibility by determining the appeals filed by third parties contained appealable issues and that the project being appealed constituted a development project in the Primary Zone. Hearings to conclude the matter as to consistency or inconsistency of the project with the Regional Plan will continue in 2007.

Facilitation

In 2006, the Commission significantly enhanced its role in the facilitation of Delta-wide coordination and collaboration both laterally and vertically among stakeholders, local, state and federal governmental entities, and regional and statewide interests. This role has been identified to be of value in the Delta visioning process underway pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order and in the process of developing a Bay Delta Conservation Plan by the Resources Agency.

Implementation of the Regional Plan

A strategic work plan for implementation of the Regional Plan has been adopted as a component of the Strategic Plan that includes annual tasks and deliverables. The status of accomplishments for tasks identified as priorities for 2006/2007 are detailed within this report.

In summary, 2006 has been a significant year for reclaiming the Commission through the adoption of a Strategic Plan that provides the tools and mechanisms for effectively carrying out its role and authority pursuant to the Act, and consistent with the expectations of the Legislature and the Administration. The Strategic Plan provides the groundwork from which the Commission can continue to fulfill its role under the Act, and to make determinations as to future direction, particularly with respect to outcomes of the Delta Vision process that could entail expansion of the Commission's role of governance in the Delta and statewide representation.

The efforts noted are highlighted in greater detail throughout this report along with background information about the Act and the Commission.

BACKGROUND

The Delta Protection Act (Act) was adopted by the Legislature in 1992 and subsequently amended in 1996, 1998, 1999, and 2000. The Act, codified in the Public Resources Code beginning with Sections 29700, is also known as the Johnston-Baker-Andal-Boatwright Delta Protection Act of 1992.

The Act was created pursuant to findings and declarations of the Legislature that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a natural resource of statewide, national, and international significance, containing irreplaceable resources. Furthermore, the Legislature found and declared that it is the policy of the State to recognize, preserve, and protect those resources of the Delta for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

The Delta Protection Commission (Commission) was created under the Act. The diverse composition of the Commission provides for stakeholder representation in the areas of agriculture, habitat, and recreation. The nineteen members of the Commission include: landowners from North, South, West, and Central Delta Reclamation Districts; a member of the County Board of Supervisors from each of the five Delta counties (Sacramento, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Yolo and Solano); a representative from the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG); and high-level leaders from the California

Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Boating and Waterways, California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the California State Lands Commission. Ex-officio members of the Commission are Senator Mike Machado and Assemblywoman Lois Wolk.

As called for in the Act, a Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone (Regional Plan) was prepared and adopted by the Commission in 1995 and revised in 2002. The Management Plan sets out findings, policies, and recommendations resulting from background studies in the areas of environment, utilities and infrastructure, land use, agriculture, water, recreation and access, levees, and marine patrol/boater education/safety programs. In conformance with the provisions of the Act, local government general plans are to provide for consistency with the provisions of the Regional Plan. The Commission serves as an Appeal body in the event an action of a local entity on a project located within the Primary Zone is challenged as being inconsistent with the Act or the Regional Plan.

Provisions of the Act require that on January 1 of each year, the Commission submit to the Governor and the Legislature a report describing the progress that has been made in achieving the objectives of the Act and the relevant sections of the Public Resources Code. The opportunity is therefore provided to share highlighted 2006 accomplishments of the Commission.

OVERVIEW

The adoption of the 2006-2011 Strategic Plan is a significant accomplishment in 2006 as it provides the framework and work plans for proactively and effectively carrying out the provisions of the Act and the implementation of the Regional Plan while utilizing existing authority. The Strategic Plan is a five-year business guide for the Commission that includes strategies, and annual tasks and deliverables for accomplishing the Commission's vision and mission. It also provides for compatibility with the Delta visioning process and a structure from which to build on relative to the establishment of an enhanced land use governance authority in the Delta. Primary components of the Plan include:

- Purpose of Commission, and Opportunities and Threats to the Delta;
- Commission Vision and Mission, and associated Health Indicators for the Delta;
- Program, Funding, and Leadership Strategies;
- Strategic Work Plan Goals for Program Administration; and
- Strategic Work Plan Goals for Implementation of the Regional Plan.

Purpose of Commission, and Opportunities and Threats to the Delta

In order to better define its role in the Delta, the Commission reviewed its purpose and identified opportunities for, and threats to, achieving that role as follows. The purpose of the Commission is to protect, preserve and enhance the Delta as it exists today serving multiple functions, including, but not limited to: agricultural land preservation; habitat protection; and enhancing recreational opportunities.

Opportunities for achieving the above purposes include: infrastructure bond funding; grants; collaboration with relevant local, state, federal, and private sector entities; participation in Delta visioning; and legislation to expand Commission representation and enhance effectiveness.

Threats to the above include: insufficient levee integrity (including subsidence); proximity to seismic fault zones; population growth and increased demands on all infrastructure elements of the Delta; potential increase in water supply demands for 23 million plus Californians; urban encroachment in the Primary and Secondary Zones; market pressures on agribusiness, i.e., conversion of ag land to non-agriculture uses; insufficient integrated regional planning and implementation; disputes over public access; environmental influences such as invasion of non-native species in the waterways, rising ocean levels, water quality issues, etc.; and greater need for Commission stewardship and social responsibility, e.g., abandoned vessels, dumping and pollution.

Commission Vision and Mission, and Associated Health Indicators for the Delta

As a result of the strategic planning process, the following vision and mission were developed and adopted by the Commission, taking into consideration three key health indicators.

Vision: The Delta in the year 2011 is a dynamic and living system.

Mission: To protect, maintain, and where possible, enhance and restore the overall quality of the Delta environment consistent with the Act and the Regional Plan, including, but not limited to agriculture, wildlife habitat and recreational activities; to ensure orderly, balanced conservation and development of Delta land resources and improved flood protection.

Health Indicators identified and taken into consideration in the development of the vision and mission:

- An integrated approach to water, land use and resource management planning sufficient to protect, maintain, enhance and restore the cultural and economic sustainability of residents, businesses, agricultural and recreational interests consistent with a healthy ecosystem;
- Sufficient flood protection (e.g., levee maintenance and improvement, and subsidence mitigation) for residential, commercial, agricultural and public infrastructure; and

- Sufficient fresh water flow and water quality in and through the Delta to meet the needs of Delta water uses (residential, commercial and agricultural), recreation, habitat preservation and water quality.

Program, Funding, and Leadership Strategies

The following strategies were developed for accomplishing the Commission's vision and mission for the next five years, commencing July of 2006.

Program:

- Effectively integrate the Regional Plan into local government general plans by working proactively with local planning departments to ensure full integration of the Regional Plan into general plans;
- Act as the appeal body for inconsistencies between general plans and the Regional Plan;
- Implement the Regional Plan on a prioritized basis and consistent with the Act through development and implementation of annual work plans that target implementation needs flexibly and in partnership with stakeholders;
- Participate actively in the development of a long-range Delta-wide vision and management plan in which the Regional Plan would be included; and
- Initiate a proactive approach to collaborative participation in legislative and regulatory efforts so that the Commission's influence is represented in all discussions of proposed relevant legislation and regulatory change.

Funding:

- Continue to receive funds as designated under the Act by submitting Budget Change Proposals in 2006-07 to restore the budget for 2007-2008;
- Maximize funding allowable under the Act by: applying for grants; pursuing bond opportunities; considering member contributions for specific activities and tasks; and pursuing other financial support as permitted by the Act such as gifts, donations, rents, royalties, and other financial support from private sources;
- Efficiently manage the Commission's resources through the streamlining of Budget Unit components;
- Participate in collaborative efforts to develop funding strategies that fully consider the economic benefits and costs of achieving the Commission's vision of the Delta; and
- Promote strategies for the funding, acquisition, and maintenance of voluntary cooperative arrangements, such as conservation easements between property owners and conservation groups that protect wildlife habitat and agricultural land, while not impairing the integrity of infrastructure, including levees.

Leadership:

- Ensure a well-informed and effective membership body of Commissioners that reflects the diversity of Delta stakeholders by developing and implementing a Commissioner orientation program, and establishing meeting attendance norms and processes; and
- Hire the best qualified and highest performing staff possible to carry out the responsibilities of the Commission, consistent with the Act and the Strategic Plan by evaluating long-term needs for positions and levels of expertise, and developing comprehensive human resources policies and implementing them consistently for all staff according to state requirements and policies.

EFFECTIVENESS IN PRESERVING AGRICULTURE, HABITAT AND RECREATION

Goals for implementation of the Regional Plan have been identified as a component of the Strategic Plan, consistent with the Act. Annual tasks have been identified for 2006/2007 and tasks will continue to be identified annually over the term of the Five-Year Plan. Status of progress made in achieving each task is tracked on a quarterly basis. The following is a synopsis of significant accomplishments in each area of the Regional Plan in 2006.

Overall Plan Implementation

Goals: Complete summary of accomplished policy recommendations cited in the Regional Plan; establish priority/timeline for completion of remaining tasks; identify unaddressed areas; and develop tools for proactive “integration” of Regional Plan into local general plans and planning resources resulting in a positive rather than adversarial image for the Commission.

Tasks/*Status of Accomplishment:*

Track project proposals in the Primary and Secondary Zones with an early intervention approach. *A draft Delta project checklist has been developed (with input from the five Delta counties) to assure the policies of the Regional Plan are considered when processing a project application for projects in the Delta. Four of the five Delta counties are undergoing General Plan updates and are considering the inclusion of a Delta Element or Chapter that cites the policies of the Regional Plan. These efforts will provide effective tools for utilization in the Delta visioning process.*

Play an integral role in assuring stakeholder input into Delta visioning processes.

The Commission Executive Director is a member of the Delta Vision core team. Participation has included: providing rapport as a liaison between local entities and stakeholders with state entities to assure lateral and vertical communication; and Commission representation on visioning workshop panels and statewide educational efforts to promote statewide recognition of the Delta and the Commission.

Initiate process to collect input to develop an annual survey of land use changes and growth pressures within the Delta Primary and Secondary Zones, relevant to the Act and the Regional Plan.

Completed summary of project review for project proposals “initiated” in 2006 which, in comparison to 2005, indicated significant increases in Contra Costa County (11-4P to 24-3P) and San Joaquin County (5-3P to 21-4P). Increases in the other three Delta counties amounted to: Sacramento (16-13P to 18-10P); Solano (2-1P to 8-8P) and Yolo (3-2P to 3-3P). Multi-county proposals decreased from 9-9P to 5-4P. Note: P denotes Primary Zone. Thus it is apparent that the trend of population-related growth in the Secondary Zone is continuing. The increased authority provided to the Commission under AB 797 will provide to be an asset in influencing land use decisions in the Secondary Zone in 2007. The Commission’s land use authority (highlighted by the filing of two appeals in 2006) and the components of the Regional Plan provide a basis from which to build a governance structure for promoting smart growth land use decisions as a potential outcome of the Delta visioning process.

Pursue authority to amend the Regional Plan, if determined by the Commission to be needed pursuant to review of accomplishments and identification of unaddressed areas required to comply with the Act.

Submitted legislative proposals for: (1) the addition of a Transportation representative on the Commission; and (2) authority to have member alternates moving forward.

Environment

Goals: Preserve and protect the natural resources of the Delta, including soils; promote protection of remnants of riparian habitat; promote seasonal flooding and agriculture practices on agricultural lands to maximize wildlife use of the hundreds of thousands of acres of lands in the Delta; and promote levee maintenance and rehabilitation to preserve the land areas and channel configurations in the Delta by enhancing educational awareness of the benefits of an adaptive working landscapes approach to managing agricultural and habitat resources; exploring options for balancing environmental mitigation with other lands uses, including agriculture and flood protection; and exploring options for land use practices (BMP) that reduce or reverse subsidence.

Tasks/Status of Accomplishment

Apply for working landscapes grant to implement demonstration projects and educational awareness.

Partnering with Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy and Hart Restoration, the Commission applied for a Working Landscapes Grant to conduct habitat-friendly ag demonstration projects with local landowners. The grant has been conditionally awarded in the amount of \$800,000 (request was for \$1.2 million) for implementation in 2007 which will result in landowner-participation projects.

Co-sponsor Lower Bypass Management Plan development with Yolo Basin Foundation. ***A feasibility study has been completed to determine if collaboration would be an effective approach. Pursuant to the positive outcome of the study, taking into consideration stakeholder input, contract process is underway for initiation of the management plan development process in early 2007 which will be critical to making effective land use decisions relative to the lower bypass.***

Provide input into development of Yolo Wildlife Area Management Plan by Department of Fish and Game.

Staff has participated in the process through the attendance of workshops and formal comments to assure Delta stakeholder perspectives are taken into consideration and to assure consistency with the policies of the Commission's Regional Plan.

Participate in efforts to address invasive species issues.

Facilitated support for partner agencies (Boating and Waterways, and Department of Health Services) devoted to education and outreach relative to the impacts of invasive species on the Delta environment, particularly water quality and fisheries. These efforts will provide input into the Delta Vision and Bay Delta Conservation Plan processes.

Participate in discussions to identify and recognize impacts/benefits/compensation costs associated with mitigation.

Coordination and facilitation has been underway to include local conservation plan representatives in Bay Delta Conservation Plan processes to assure effective utilization of resources and collaboration. Facilitated local entities presentation to Bay Delta Conservation Plan Steering Committee (including water purveyors) to demonstrate importance of coordination and communication between local and state conservation program planning processes and statewide recognition of the Delta and the Commission.

Utilities and Infrastructure

Goals: Protect the Delta from excessive construction of utilities and infrastructure facilities, including those that support uses and development outside the Delta. Where construction of new utility and infrastructure facilities is appropriate, ensure the impacts of such new construction on the integrity of levees, wildlife, and agriculture are minimized by pursuing sources of reference relative to transportation related issues and considering long-term impact mitigation opportunities.

Task/Status of Accomplishment

Pursue authority to include a member with transportation expertise on the Commission.

Legislative concept was submitted but not considered in 2006 session (to be pursued in 2007).

Land Use

Goals: Protect the unique character and qualities of the Primary Zone by preserving the cultural heritage and strong agricultural base of the Primary Zone. Direct new residential, commercial, and industrial development within the existing communities as currently designated and where appropriate services are available.

Task/Status of Accomplishment

Actively participate in the Administration's Delta Vision process.

Active member of the Delta Vision Process Core Planning Team and have provided integral input relative to stakeholder representation in the process. Participated in outreach efforts to effectively fulfill the role of "liaison" between state representatives and Delta interests/stakeholders. The Commission's structure and the diverse components of the Regional Plan provide a basis for which to build on in the development of outcomes resulting from the Delta vision process, including the potential for an enhanced governance structure..

Pursue partners to evaluate potential establishment of Delta conservation easement program.
Facilitated discussions with the Department of Conservation and the American Farmland Trust as the initial step toward developing an active program, including effective incentives for potential partners and voluntary landowners. This effort will continue as a priority in 2007 and will benefit from provisions of AB 797 relative to providing for easements in the Primary Zone for projects in the Secondary Zone.

Pursue development of a metes and bounds description for the Primary Zone boundary.
To be pursued in 2007.

Work with Department of Fish and Game to enhance Delta-wide reference sources.
Coordinating collaboration and effective integration of Fish and Game, DWR, and UC Berkeley resources. Completed overlay of local habitat conservation plans. The Commission's role in pulling these resources together provide invaluable in assuring effective coordination rather than overlap of State resources.

Agriculture

Goals: Support long-term viability of commercial agriculture and discourage inappropriate development of agricultural lands by establishing forums for Delta-wide collaboration among agricultural interests on common activities and issues, and establishing a program for Delta agricultural easements.

Task/Status of Accomplishment

Meet routinely with Ag Commissioners, Farm Bureau and Resource Conservation District representatives to identify Delta-wide issues.

Ongoing discussion and coordination has lead to defining tasks for 2007/08, including Delta-wide contracting for trapping services, relative to levee pests, if determined to be more cost effective than addressing county by county.

Develop and implement Delta-wide rodent control program as it relates to levee maintenance.
Contract shared by Contra Costa and San Joaquin counties is being used as a model for developing a five-county contract if determined such approach is cost effective.

Identify strategies and components of a voluntary agricultural easement program, including exploration of incentives.

Facilitating discussions with Department of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, and American Farm Land Trust to define components of an effective program (to be a priority in 2007 as noted above).

Support the California Delta Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Provided meeting facilitation support, coordinated preparation of a bio-fuels resource directory, and assisted in facilitation of a visioning retreat to determine mission and goals for 2007.

Water

Goals: Protect long-term quality in the Delta for agriculture, municipal, industrial, water-contact recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat uses, as well as all other designated beneficial uses through the development of programs for Delta-wide collaboration to effectively and efficiently address water quality issues, including salinity intrusion, and participation in data collection/monitoring programs relative to salinity (X2).

Task/Status of Accomplishment

Facilitate collaborative to work with Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to “effectively” establish mandated Mercury TMDL program.

Facilitated formation of a collaborative of diverse Delta interests to provide input to the Regional Board in the development of a Delta TMDL program. Utilizing joint collaborative contributions, facilitated the hiring of consultants to provide support for commenting on draft reports from a technical as well as environmental economics perspective. The Collaborative has also devoted resources to seek legislative support for funding to address monitoring by local interests that will be an outcome of the TMDL although the issue is of statewide concern and benefit.

Support solicitation of funding for mercury monitoring through legislative opportunities and resource bonds.

Participated in discussions relative to assembly Bill 2901 to assure Delta interest representation and to explore creative opportunities to address issues relative to mercury monitoring costs from a regional rather than merely a local approach.

Provide input into development of South Delta and North Delta Improvement Programs.

Facilitated discussions to address potential hurdles associated with long-term ownership and marina-related issues on the NDIP project, and facilitated discussions with between DWR and recreational boating to assure potential hurdles to boating access are addressed relative to the SDIP. Will continue to address the long-term ownership issue in 2007 to promote completion of the project.

Participate in DWR/RWQCB discussions regarding Suisun Marsh salinity monitoring program (California data Exchange Network), including identification of indicators and objectives.

Provided input on the DRMS ITF paper on salinity from a West Delta perspective.

Recreation and Access

Goals: Promote continued recreational use of the land and waters of the Delta. Ensure that needed facilities that allow such uses are constructed, maintained, and supervised. Protect landowners from unauthorized recreational uses on private lands. Maximize dwindling public funds for recreation by promoting public-private partnerships and multiple use of Delta lands by establishing programs for recognition of the value of recreational access to appreciate the unique resources of the Delta.

Task/Status of Accomplishment

Provide forum for stakeholder-driven development of Delta Trail.

Pursuant to SB 1556, The Great California Delta Trail (effective January 1, 2007), facilitated stakeholder discussions identifying opportunities and challenges in the from the perspective of the following interests: agriculture/water/flood control; environment/habitat; local entities; and private industry. This project will be given priority in 2007 and will assure that it continues to be stakeholder driven.

Facilitate development of Delta branding concept, including visitor center and delta-wide signage that recognize the resources of the Delta, including the cultural/historical values.

Assisted the Discover the Delta Foundation in acquiring non-profit status. Facilitated contributions to the Delta Discovery Center to be located in Sacramento County (Hwy. 160/12) from Sacramento County (\$50,000), Yolo County (\$15,000), and San Joaquin County (\$6,000). Facilitated the posting of Welcome to the Delta signs in Solano (1), Yolo (3), and Sacramento (5) counties. Submitted Prop. 50 grant application on behalf of the Foundation for funding to construct the Center. The visitor center will provide Delta-wide recognition and stewardship.

Seek funding for completion of Riparian/Terrestrial component of Recreation Master Plan Strategy.

Submitted budget change proposal in the amount of \$50,000 (will continue to pursue for 2007/08). Facilitated discussions with State Parks for potential partnership funding consistent with the State Parks Central Valley Vision (will pursue bond funding allocation in 2007).

Levees

Goals: Support the improvement and long-term maintenance of Delta levees by coordinating permit reviews and guidelines for levee maintenance. Develop a long-term funding program for levee maintenance. Protect levees in emergency situations. Give levee rehabilitation and maintenance the priority over other uses of levee areas by pursuing efforts to enhance recognition of public health and safety as a priority.

Task/Status of Accomplishment

Provide input on infrastructure bond and legislation to express support for public health and safety projects.

Facilitated local government and reclamation district input into Corps' proposed solicitation process and submitted letters of support to Congress and the Governor for Delta infrastructure projects.

Support Delta Levees Subventions Program.

Provided analyses to Resources Agency in support of funding and extension of subventions program which was successfully extended pursuant to the Governor's signing of pertinent legislation.

Support Delta Risk Management Study (DRMS).

Executive Director has been added as a member of the DRMS steering committee and has actively provided input on ITF papers to assure consistency with the Regional Plan.

Support Long-term Management Strategy (LTMS) for Dredging (re-use) and permit streamlining.

Provided input into the development of the framework and charter. Commission membership is represented on the Executive Committee, and the Executive Director is a member of the Management Committee and the Working Group.

Facilitate forums of discussion on Delta-wide emergency response and other hazard-related topics.

Facilitated local electeds summit which lead to the development of a Statement of Compelling Need, Resolution of Delta local entity commitment, and development of five-county agreement for creation of Delta-wide OES Team and Emergency Response Plan. Documents to be approved by counties in early 2007.

Marine Patrol, Boater Education, and Safety Programs

Goals: Pursue opportunities for development of Delta-wide programs to enhance boater awareness and an appreciation for recreational boating.

Task/Status of Accomplishment

Facilitate forum for collaboratively addressing abandoned vessel issue with a Delta-wide approach.

Facilitated the formation of five county abandoned vessel removal discussion group, including enforcement and resource management representatives, as well as staff from Boating and Waterways, State Lands Commission, Corps, and Coast Guard. Facilitated communication between Sacramento County Sheriff, State Lands Commission, and the Corps to address significant trespass/hazard situation in Mayberry Slough.

Support efforts to develop streamlined application process for grants relative to abandoned vessel removal.

Submitted budget change proposal for establishment of 10% grant match fund within DPC to assist local entities in applying for grant funding from Boating and Waterways to address abandoned vessel problems in a timely manner (will pursue in 2007). Provided support for inclusion of grant facilitation assistance in grant application from Contra Costa County (awarded). This streamlined process will result in more counties participating in the program and securing funding for abandoned vessel removal.

Facilitate pursuit of legislation to address “commercial” abandoned vessel issue.

Working with Department of Boating and Waterways to identify potential legislative support opportunities, including the potential for expanding the program to commercial vessel removal.

Provide forums of discussion on water conveyance proposals to assure boating perspective is represented.

Participated in discussions between Boating and Waterways, DWR, and recreational interests relative to South Delta Improvement program to assure issue of potential impacts to waterway access are addressed.

In summary, the accomplishments of the Commission in 2006 have been guided by the Strategic Plan. Staff will continue to work toward accomplishing all tasks identified for 2006-2007, and to identify new tasks for adoption by the Commission for 2007-2008. Participation in the Delta Vision process, development of an agriculture conservation easement program, facilitation of communication and collaboration toward effective land use decisions, promoting statewide recognition of the Delta and the Commission, and facilitation of a stakeholder-driven process for development of the Delta Trail will continue to be of priority for accomplishment in 2007. The Commission will also continue to explore opportunities for effectively and efficiently fulfilling its governance role in protecting, preserving and enhancing resources for those who live, work and play in the Delta.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Delta Protection Commission Roster (effective January 2007)